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Sen. Brown's bill to help protect senior citizens, vulnerable residents approved

LANSING – The Michigan Senate approved legislation Thursday that expands the criteria for reporting vulnerable missing persons on the state's emergency communication system, said bill sponsor Sen. Cameron S. Brown, R-Fawn River Township.

"This bill will keep certain missing persons from falling between the technical cracks of legal language that prevents their immediate reporting on Michigan's Law Enforcement Information Network," Brown said.

If enacted, Senate Bill 701 would require missing reports on seniors or any other resident gone missing and considered unable to find their own way home without assistance to be broadcast over the LEIN system.

Under current law, officials are required to report information through LEIN on children and individuals with physical or mental disabilities who go missing.

"LEIN has been a tremendous asset in locating missing persons, especially children," Brown said. "This bill is more inclusive of those missing persons who could benefit by immediate notification of their unfortunate situation."

If enacted, the law would require information regarding the missing individual to be broadcast over the network to all law enforcement agencies in surrounding areas, including those additional agencies requested by the family filing the report.

"This bill is one step we can take to protect our state's most vulnerable residents," Brown said. "If it results in just one more family being reunited with their loved one, it will be well worth it."

SB 701 will now head to the House of Representatives for consideration.

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